AN ORGANIZATION IS REQUIRED.

A Communication of Much Interest From a Johannasburg Gentleman.

He Suggests a Body Which Will Deal With all Mining Matters and Will Become An Authority Too.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE KLONDIKE NUGGET:

SIR: I would solicit a small space in the columns of your esteemed journal to advocate the establishment of an institution which has on the Transvaal gold fields, whence I emanate, been of indispensible service and benefit to the mining industry. I must confess, on my arrival here I felt deeply chagrined and astonished to find that under the British flag such anomalies of opinion prevented as to the legislative and administrative evils which exist in our midst. I might comment that it is a singular satire upon the representations which are now being made of the benefit of British interests by the secretary of state for the colonies to the Transvaal Government during the latter to adopt a more enlightened and liberal policy towards the mining industry of that country. It seems to me that the condition of things prevailing in this remote corner of the Empire, President Kruger would obviously be justified in employing the "tu quoque" argument with such triumphant effect that the white orchard stricken by the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain would quickly suffuse itself with the blushing hues of a pink confusion.

Recognizing as we do the elements of success contained in the unity of strength and a mutual organization thereof, I would respectfully suggest to the committee, which has taken up with such public spirit the manifold grievances from which the community is suffering, the advisability of forming a chamber of mines, of which a president, vice president and executive shall be appointed to act, chosen from amongst members, who would consist of representative mine owners and others materially interested in the welfare and prosperity of these fields. Such an institution would undoubtedly enjoy franchise influence and power, become the recognized medium of intercourse between the government and claim owners, and, in safe-guarding the people's rights and interests, it would speak with no uncertain voice in vindication thereof; and in all matters appertaining to the mining industry act with that fullness of authority and effect which attach to the opinions and utterances of a representative and responsible public body. It ought, furthermore, to become a bureau of semi-official character for the dissemination of reliable information concerning the Klondike to the outside world. Miners would meet to consult their mutual interests, and be furnished with whatever knowledge they desired to possess in connection with their calling, while an arbitration court might very wisely be associated with the constitution of the chamber for the hearing and adjustment of disputes. I confidently believe that the formation of such an institution would be of incalculable benefit to the country, and be capable of fulfilling functions as meritorious and far-reaching as those performed by the Transvaal chamber of mines, which now owns its palatial building containing a museum filled with samples of the mineral resources of the country; here the executive might meet once a week, or more often to ventilate subjects and adopt resolutions dealing with the large and important interests which are confided to their care and deliberation. In conclusion, I may mention that I am given to understand by a prominent lawyer in this town that the corporation could obtain corporate powers under a special ordinance entitled "The Board of Trade Act."

I am yours, etc.,

MONTAGU LEIGHTON.

Dawson City, July 15, 1898.

Monte Carlo Closed.

The Monte Carlo was closed last week by agreement of the partners Jack Smith and Bill Gates, the latter gentleman better known to our suppliable readers as Saltwater Bill. There had been some money difficulties between them, and $12,000 of the bank in Gates' name had been attached by Smith. Amicable arrangements are under way for re-opening the place, which is in a very desirable location and was doing a good business.

Took "Nuggets" Out With Him.

Mr. Zack. F. Hickman, one of the proprietors of the NUGGET, has gone to the outside in the interests of the paper. He will visit all the large cities of Canada, including Ottawa, and also many of those in the United States. He carries with him a complete file of the KLONDIKE NUGGET, and before returning to Dawson in September will see to it that this paper is properly advertised in the land by the others. The foreign circulation of the NUGGET will be supplied from our Seattle office. Mr. Hickman left on the Ora on Wednesday last trip.

A New Thawing Apparatus.

F. W. Allenby is going up to the mines to test a new contrivance for burning the ground. There have been numerous appliances put on the market for dealing with our auriferous frozen gravel, but heretofore they have been regularly unsuccessful, one and all. The method of building a cordwood fire in the shaft or in the drift, and, after the fire is burned out and the smoke cleared, then ascertaining what ground had been thawed, has been employed on up the present time, a deal of time lost in waiting for the fire to die out and the smoke to clear has been avoided by using the fire at the surface to heat large rocks which were afterward thrown down the hole. It requires a large amount of fuel to operate in this way and the method has not been generally adopted. Again, in burning by fire, after the first foot of ground has been thawed, all heat to penetrate to greater depth must slowly pass through that foot of mud.

The apparatus of Mr. Allenby is designed to overcome these difficulties. It consists of a tank or case in which a wood fire is burned. A rotary blower, operated by hand, forces the hot air down the shaft to the point desired to be thawed, the cooled air ascending through the center of the shaft. The blast can be shut off at any time and the thawed ground is immediately ready for removal. By burning but a few inches at a time a great economy in fuel is supposed to be effected, while the saving in time is apparent.

A Quick Trip to White Horse.

The Willie Irving returned to Dawson on Saturday, having made the trip to White Horse and return very quickly indeed. The actual running time was less than six days and another forty-seven hours were used up at Fetty. The ascent of the Five Finger rapids was made on the right hand side going up, though an attempt was made on the opposite side. The Willie would get nearly through but when she climbed up to the "jumping off place" where the water makes a sheer descent of a number of feet it would raise her wheel out of the water and she would stand still. She is, however, as staunch a little craft as sails the river, and had no difficulty in getting upon the opposite side.

Deaths on the River.

Frank L. Ware, a member of the Masonic Fraternity, of Crookston, Minn., died June 22d, on board the steamer Ware, between Hampton City and Taunana. His remains were interred at Fort Adams.

The body of Louis Lang was picked up in the river at Dawson on Friday last. It will be remembered that the deceased was one of a party wrecked on Indian River on June 24th. Mr. Lang was from San Francisco.

RANDOM REMARKS.

Are the people of Dawson satisfied with the present unsanitary condition of the city?

At one dollar per hour per man, how much does it cost Dawson in one week to get her own mail?

The Methodist Episcopal church, usually very aggressive, has no organized society in Dawson. What's the matter?

There will be no shortage of provisions in Dawson nor even a lack of variety, if present indications count anything.

When you are in Rome do as the Romans do; but when you are in Dawson you must do only what is ordered from Ottawa.

When the main street of Klondike City was cleared of campers the town lost half its population. Was this a wise move?

Wonder if the forty-four claims reserved from location on Dominion creek bills left anything worth mentioning for prospectors?

There are three sawmills at each end of the city, each running night and day, yet an ordinary wagon load of lumber cannot be found.

The gold commissioner informs us that he is still on deck; but he has vouchsafed no information as to how soon he will have to walk the plank.

Overheard.—*Customer*—Have you a pocket stove in stock? *Storekeeper*—No, sir; I heard yesterday of condensed blankets, but never before now of pocket stoves.

The gold commissioner's office can now be approached from the road on an elegant board walk. For this and some other blessings the waiting miners are devoutly thankful.

Profiting by last winter's experience and the present low prices of provisions, many of the upcountry miners are already purchasing their supplies for the next winter.

We respectfully suggest that some Australian miner give us a brief digest of the Australian mining laws. We all admire the ballot law of the southern continent; possibly the mining laws are equally worthy of admiration, if not of imitation.

POLICE COURT ITEMS.

In another case of disturbance Albert King was let off with the costs.

R. Burns labored hard for two days for taking firewood from W. J. Perry.

N. Norbuck paid six-mile costs for assault. F. McCue paid just so much for the same offense.

Ruben Marsh, charged with tackling a disturbance and fighting on the streets, was discharged.

E. L. White pressed his claim against Jones for non-payment of wages, and the defendant paid a fine of $10 and costs.

H. McCloskey was drunk and disorderly, but his fine was suspended as he wanted to start for home and did not have enough for steamboat fare and fine also.

In the case of Chas. Jones, charged with assault by Mrs. Christine Thomson, he is bound over in the sum of $50 to keep the peace for one month and to pay the costs.

The Seattle Yukon S. S. Co. settled their suit with W. A. Wescott. His claim for non-payment of wages. The similar case of E. Morgan is not yet disposed of.

There were ten drunks disposed of and five cases of committing a nuisance within the town of Dawson. The fine for the last offense is one dollar and one dollar costs. Two refused to pay and served two days in prison.

Last week was a busy time at the justice courts. R. Henson accused W. H. Straight of unlawfully taking a gold sack, but failed to appear and prosecute. Fred. Schemalzer also failed to push his charges against A. H. Jose for non payment of wages.

On information furnished by F. S. Belcher a verdict was returned against J. L. Tam for having liquor illegally in his possession. Tam paid $100 fine together with the costs, the informer getting one-half of the fine money. E. Tam paid $50 and costs for the same offense and Belcher gets half of that also.

Perhaps It Will Come Today.

Mr. W. H. Churchill, agent for the Columbian Navigation Co. will give a first class passage ticket, including meals and berth from Dawson to Seattle, free to the party who first jumps off a sighting from Dawson on the first steamer of the company from the outside to arrive here. Mr. Churchill expects the "Monarch" to be the vessel to be the first of his company's fleet to arrive.

A TEN ACRE PUBLIC WOOD YARD.

A Good Supply of Building Material Is Insured Us For Next Year.

Our Cool and Pleasant Midnight Hours Used for Sport and Recreation by Our Dawson City Youths.

The Caucasian race can be depended upon at any time to supply its own wants, if the thing can possibly be done. One of Dawson's most immediate necessities is more building lumber. Undoubtedly this "aching void" will be a thing of the past after this season, but such is truly the case at the present moment. To supply the existing need there are six more sawmills either just completed or to be in operation within a week. G. P. Stewart & Co., have just started to cut, their mill being on the waterfront a short distance south of the barracks. The Klondike Mill Co., F. T. Noyes, manager, will have a large mill in operation on the Klondike slough in a very few days, if indeed it is not sawing already. Three miles up the Yukon Mr. Wm. Murdoch has erected a mill. Colonel Domville has a large sawmill coming up on his first steamboat, and already has another mill in operation at the mouth of the Pelly river. The lumber will all be brought to Dawson as long as there is open water in the river to float it down. The Kerry Canadian Mill Co. has its mill also at the mouth of the Pelly river, having recently followed the crowd down from the lakes above.

The mills which have been supplying the lumber required by Dawson's sudden expansion are the Harper & Ladue mill, Yukon Sawmilling Co., Hobbs & Smith, Williams, and lastly, the Welboon mill.

The mills applying for permits the coming season have become so numerous that the officials at Ottawa have taken alarm. The forests of the Yukon district are neither so thick nor so dense but they can easily become depleted, and it has been deemed advisable to stop the granting of any more mill privileges until the need for them can be shown. That the need will not exist after this year is apparent to all observing men.

A Ten-Acre Wood Yard.

From the mouth of Klondike to where the bluffs run down to the water's edge north of town the waterfront of Dawson is occupied. Where not reserved by the police, the buildings and boats are thick or thicker than even stakes on Dominion creek. At the north are log booms, acres in extent, and to the south are also acres of boats, many of them being occupied as dwellings. Hundreds of men are anxious to begin laying in Dawson's winter supply of firewood, yet not an inch of shore could be found for a woodyard site. Not a stick of cordwood has yet been brought in.

The foregoing is the actual condition of things found by Major Walsh and Timber Agent Willison last week. The result of the conference was the issuing by Major Walsh at once of an order to the police setting apart ten acres of the police reserve for a public wood yard. The shore line and the rest of that ten acres will be devoted exclusively to fuel. No companies will be given concessions, but all men will have equal rights in common.

Some regulations for the government of the "fuel patch" will have to be issued. A time limit will have to be set upon the occupation of the water front by raffs. The demand for space within that ten acres requires that each user thereof shall pile and maintain his wood in such a manner as to occupy a minimum of space. The police will exercise supervision of the tract and see that driveways are maintained between the piles.

Probably in not another town in North America has the control of firewood been dignified as in Dawson. Without official interposition by Major Walsh, at whose instance this "fuel patch" would have found Dawson without a woodpile, since a place to land or a place to pile would have been beyond the reach of all but the wealthy.

To his attention to these small details of government that an administration demonstrates its fitness.

Baseball at Midnight.

On Sunday evening, last, at the fashionable hour of 11:30 p. m., an enthusiastic audience of lovers of the great American game gathered in front of the Pavilion to witness one of the most exciting contests of the season. The players consisted of Dawson's youthful celebrities, whose waking hours are mostly spent in running put sawdust from the saloons and business houses. After appointing a committee to keep stray malamoots and donkeys off the diamond the game was called.

The rooters, of whom about 200 covered the bleachers, were by no means slow in cheering the favorites. Scone Dough, "Mackinaw" and "Skinny" claimed the greater part of the crowd's attention and their efforts well deserved all praise. In fact Scone Dough held such high favor with the audience that they insisted on his being given four strikes instead of three, which ruling the umpire sustained amid great applause.

The game was interrupted several times by a Chechaco dunker, which insisted on covering the pitcher's box and screaming the ground. The simple rules, him out of order and skining around the intruder, and by heads of simley kicks and with the assistance of Mackinaw, who brought up the rear with a club in his hands, sent Mr. Donkey off the diamond in triumph. The game continued until an early hour, when the crowd dispersed. The score was not announced.

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